PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides information on the PharmaCare program for British Columbia's community pharmacists. Please circulate among dispensing staff.

PharmaCare on the Web: www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca pharme

Changes for Cystic Fibrosis patients

Effective May 1, 2003, there will be changes in PharmaCare reimbursement for vitamins and nutritional supplements for cystic fibrosis patients.

Patients on Plan D, who are registered with a provincial Cystic Fibrosis Clinic, will continue receiving full coverage for eligible digestive enzymes. PharmaCare coverage under Plan D is not changing.

However, reimbursement for vitamins and nutritional supplements covered under other PharmaCare plans for eligible cystic fibrosis patients will change. Up to April 30, 2003, these products may be claimed at retail price not including a dispensing fee. Starting May 1, 2003, vitamins and nutritional supplements for cystic fibrosis will be adjudicated at the Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC) plus the dispensing fee. This change comes into effect with the implementation of the new Fair PharmaCare plan and is consistent with PharmaCare's policy for reimbursing prescription drugs.

Cystic fibrosis patients may continue to purchase vitamins and nutritional supplements at retail price, but these purchases will not be eligible for PharmaCare reimbursement.